



STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

CHARLES W. SCHOLZ
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Vice Chair

STEVEN S. SANDVOSS
Executive Director

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100 W. Randolph Street
Suite 14-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-814-6440

2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217-782-4141
www.elections.il.gov

April 5, 2021

For more information:
Matt Dietrich, mdietrich@elections.il.gov

BOARD OF ELECTIONS TAKES CAUTIONARY SECURITY ACTION

(SPRINGFIELD) -- On Monday, the eight members of the Illinois State Board of Elections voted unanimously to place Executive Director Steve Sandvoss on administrative leave after he reported being the victim of an online extortion attempt last week. Director Sandvoss reported the attempt to the Illinois State Police, which has begun an investigation.

Based on Director Sandvoss' description, the attempted extortion scheme appeared typical of many such online scams.

However, because this attempt targeted a top official at the Illinois State Board of Elections, and out of an abundance of caution, the board has taken the cautionary step of placing Director Sandvoss on administrative leave. The board authorized Assistant Executive Director Bernadette Matthews to assume directorship at this time.

The board also authorized the agency's Chief Information Security Officer, Jeremy Owens, to cooperate fully with the law enforcement investigation, as well as conduct an internal assessment of all SBE devices to which Director Sandvoss had access and ensure the security of the Board's systems.

At this time, there is no reason to believe that any election data or information has been compromised. All further questions regarding the investigation should be addressed to the Illinois State Police at isp.pio.personnel@illinois.gov.
